OUTGOING TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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XR Per Aid
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FORM DS 322(OCR) XR:PS 7-4 US-UR

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UNCLASSIFIED CLASSIFICATION

SPECIAL CHARGES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AIRGRAM

ARA/PAF:GDWALLACE:STC
8/10/70 EXT. 28206
ARA/PAF:DCPROPER

NAME OF APPROVED BY
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DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

IMMEDIATE CE MONTEVIDEO — ACTION ADDRESSES

IMMEDIATE BUENOS AIRES, RIO DE JANEIRO, SANTIAGO

SPECIAL HANDLING

CAPTIONS

INITIALS

SUBJECT: MITRIONE KIDNAPPING - PRESS BRIEFING PAPER
FOLLOWING PREPARED IN ANTICIPATION PRESS QUESTIONS:
Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM MITRIONE'S DEATH?

A: YES. HIS BODY HAS BEEN IDENTIF D BY A NUMBER OF THE EMBASSY STAFF. IT WAS FOUND IN A' BANDONED, STOLEN CAR IN MONTEVIDEO SHORTLY AFTER 4:30 A.M. LOCAL TIME (5:30 A.M. WASHINGTON TIME.)

Q: WHAT HAVE WE BEEN TOLD BY THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT?

A: FOREIGN MINISTER JORGE PEIRANO FACIO HAS EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR ADAIR THE DEEP REGRETS AND SHOCK OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OVER THE ASSASSINATION AND HAS PLEDGED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THE SAFE RETURN OF DR. FLY.

Q: WHAT IS USG PRESSING URUGUAYANS TO DO NOW THAT TUPAMAROS KILLED AID OFFICIAL?

A: THE USG EXPECTS GOU TO CONTINUE ITS VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO APPREHEND THE ASSASSINS AND TO INSURE THEIR APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT.

Q: IN THE LIGHT OF MITRIONE'S EXECUTION, DO WE PLAN TO TAKE ANY SPECIAL STEPS WITH THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THE RELEASE OF FLY?

A: AS I HAVE SAID, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY TO DO EVERYTHING PRACTICABLE TO EFFECT THE SAFE

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FORM DS 322A-(OCR)

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RETURN OF FLY. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE ADDITIONAL STEPS WE CAN SUGGEST SHORT OF PROPOSING THAT GOU COMPLY WITH THE KIDNAPPERS' EXTREME DEMANDS.

Q: WHAT HAS BEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL'S REACTION?

A: WE HAVE, OF COURSE, MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT I PREFER THAT YOU DIRECT SUCH QUESTIONS TO THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY.

Q: WHAT PENALTY DOES THE URUGUAYAN LAW PROVIDE FOR MURDER?

A: URUGUAY HAS NO CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. THE MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR MURDER IS LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

Q: WILL USG PROGRAMS OR PERSONNEL BE REDUCED AS A RESULT OF THE TRAGIC OUTCOME OF THIS KIDNAPPING?

A: I KNOW OF NO SUCH PLANS.

Q: ARE DEPENDENTS OF U.S. OFFICIALS BEING REPATRIATED?

A: NO.

Q: WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO TRY TO PREVENT FURTHER KIDNAPPINGS OF U.S. OFFICIALS IN URUGUAY?

A: SECURITY PROCEDURES AND PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, I DO NOT WANT TO GO INTO DETAIL ON THIS FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD.

Q: DID THE USG EXERT PRESSURE ON THE GOU TO ACCEDE TO THE KIDNAPPERS' DEMANDS?

A: ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS BOTH HERE AND IN MONTEVIDEO, THE USG EXPRESSED ITS DEEP CONCERN TO THE GOU OVER THE KIDNAPPING, AND CONVEYED OUR EXPECTATION THAT THE GOU WOULD UTILIZE ALL PRACTICABLE MEANS AVAILABLE TO IT TO SECURE MR. MITRIONE'S RELEASE.

Q: DID THE USG EVER SPECIFICALLY ASK THE GOU TO COMPLY WITH THE KIDNAPPERS' DEMANDS?

A: NO.

Q: WHY NOT?

A: BECAUSE IF WE PRESS GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEDE TO SUCH EXTREME DEMANDS, THAT WOULD ONLY SERVE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER TERRORIST GROUPS TI KIDNAP AMERICANS, WITH THE

EXPECTATION THAT, IF THEY HAVE AN AMERICAN PRISONER, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT THE DEMANDS OF KIDNAPPERS AGAINST HOST GOVERNMENTS. SUCH A POLICY CARRIES WITH IT GREATER RISKS FOR AMERICANS OVERSEAS. IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT THE GOU BELIEVED THAT THE KIDNAPPERS' REAL PURPOSE WAS NOT THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS BUT THE WEAKENING OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT AND THE DESTRUCTION OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN URUGUAY BY MAKING DEMANDS WHICH COULD NOT BE MET.

Q: ARE WE SATISFIED THAT THE GOU EMPLOYED ALL MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO EFFECT THE SAFE RETURN OF MR. MITRIONE?

A: WE BELIEVE THAT THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT RETRIED EXTREMELY HARD. THEY HAD PRACTICAL AND LEGAL PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH, AND THE ENORMITY OF THE KIDNAPPERS' DEMANDS DWARFED THOSE OF ANY PREVIOUS RANSOM SOUGHT BY A TERRORIST GROUP ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

Q: DID WE EXERT AS MUCH PRESSURE AS IN PREVIOUS KIDNAPPINGS OF U.S. OFFICIALS IN LATIN AMERICA?

A: IN ALL SUCH CASES WE INDICATE OUR DEEP CONCERN; AND WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY, WE PERSISTENTLY MADE KNOWN OUR DEEP CONCERN FOR MR. MITRIONE AND OUR HOPE FOR HIS SAFE RETURN. SINCE MR. FLY IS STILL IN THE HANDS OF THE KIDNAPPERS, WE ARE CONTINUING TO IMPRESS UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY THE RISKS WHICH HE FACES.

Q: WHAT ABOUT REPATRIATION OF BODY?

A: WE ARE NOW NOTIFYING NEXT OF KIN. WE EXPECT TO HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SHORTLY. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THE FAMILIES WILL WANT FUNERALS TO BE HELD IN THE U.S.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE US A RUN-DOWN ON U.S. PROGRAMS AND PERSONNEL IN URUGUAY?

A: NUMBER OF AMERICANS IS AS FOLLOWS:

STATE	35
AID	22
USIA	9
PEACE CORPS (STAFF)	1
PEACE CORPS (VOLUNTEERS)	15
MILGRP	20
DEFENSE ATTACHES	6
TOTAL	108
NON-GOVERNMENT U.S. CITIZENS IN URUGUAY:	800

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Q: THE TUPAMAROS CLAIMED MITRIONE WAS AN AGENT OF THE CIA. IS THAT TRUE?

A: I CAN CATEGORICALLY SAY IT IS NOT TRUE.4

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